

**Remarks:**

Applicant makes this amendment prior to a first Office Action on the merits that the United States Government may have rights to this patent application.

Very respectfully,  
SMITH & HOPEN

By: 

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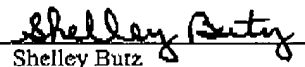
pc: University of South Florida

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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**  
**(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Preliminary Amendment, including Amendments to the Specification and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2621, (703) 872-9314 on March 29, 2004.

Dated: March 29, 2004

  
Shelley Butz

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